exploration activity in on-shore Krishna-Godavari basin (Andhra Pradesh) by drilling about 36 wells with a metreage of about 133 thousand metres as against 7 wells with a metreage of 31.23 thousand metres drilled during the Sixth Plan.

Sick oil wells

888. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sick oil wells of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, sector-wise;

(b) what are the reasons for the sickness in oil wells; and

(c) whether any plan has been formulated by Government to payment and remove sickness in oil wells; if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Following is the sector wise distribution of sick oil wells if ONGC as on 1.7.1986:—

Western Region	208
Eastern Region	55
Bombay Offshore Region	11
	274

(b) Oil wells become sick on account of Water Coning, lower permeability, low bottom hole pressure, formation damage etc.

(c) Following steps have been taken in order to repair the sick wells:—

(i) deployment of large number of workover rigs.

(ii) continuing workover operations on round the clock basis.

(iii) improving efficiency of workover operaitons through better technology.

Supply of cooking gas through pipeline

889. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will he Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration for introducing a system of supplying LPG and other cooking gases to the consumers through pipelines;

(b) if so, whether any foreign collaboration is being considered in this connection; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Orissa High Court

890. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending before the Orissa High Court as on date;

(b) the number of vacancies to be filled up in the Orissa High Court as on date;

(c) the date on which each vacancy occurred;

(d) the steps taken or are proposed to be taken to dispose of the pending case; and

(e) by when the vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As per information furnished by the Registrar of the Orissa High Court, the number of cases pending as on 30-6-1987 was 37854.

(b), (c) and (e) As on 30.7.1987, there were two vacancies (one each of Judge and Additional Judge) to be filled up in the Orissa High Court, these vacancies arose on 24.6.1986 and 26.6.1986; It is not possible to indicate the date by which these would be filled up.

(d) Steps taken by Government/Courts have been indicated in the statement attached herewith

Statement

Steps taken from time to time to reduce pendency

The following steps have been taken in recent years to reduce pendency in the High Courts:—

1. Elimination of arrers in all the Courts has been discussed in the Conference of Chief Justices, Chief Ministers and Law Ministers of States held on 31st August-1st September 1985 and the Resolution of the Conference have been commended to the High Courts and the State Governments.

2. The Code of Civil Procedure was amended in 1976 to abolish Letters Patent Appeals from judgement of Single Judge of the High Court in Second Appeal (vide Section 100-A).

3. The Code of Criminal Procedure based on the recommendations of the Law Commission was enacted in 1973.

4. The Sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges has been increased from 351 in March 1977 to 440 as on 1st Fabruary 1987.

5. Apart from the above, certain High Courts are taking the following steps for ensuring better disposal of cases:—

   (a) Cases involving common questions are being grouped by several High Courts;

   (b) Matters fixed for hearing by giving short returnable dates;

   (c) Dispensing with printing of records;

   (d) Expenditing and giving priority to matters under certain Act.

6. The recommendations contained in the 79th Report of the Law Commission have been examined. As action on majority of the recommendations is to be taken by the State Government and the High Courts, these have been sent to them alongwith the views of the Union Government, and they have been requested to take necessary action.

7. The Government have entrusted the Law Commission, the study of the judicial system to introduce necessary reforms. The terms of reference are:—

   (a) the need for decentralisation of the system of administration of justice by:

   (i) establishing, and strengthening in rural areas the institution of Nyaya Panchayats or other mechanisms for resolving disputes;

   (ii) setting up a system of participatory justice with defined jurisdiction and powers in suitable areas and centres;

   (iii) establishing other tiers or systems within the judicial hierarchy to reduce the volume of work in the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

   (b) the matter for which Tribunals (excluding Services Tribunals) as envisaged in Part-XIV-A of the Constitution need to be established expeditiously and various aspects related to their establishment and working.

   (c) the procedural laws with a view generally to disposing of cases expeditiously, eliminating unnecessary litigation, delays in hearing of cases and reforms in procedures and procedural laws and particularly to devising procedures appropriate to the forums envisaged in items (a) (i) and (a) (ii).

   (d) the method of appointments to subordinate courts, subordinate judiciary.

(e) the training of Judicial Officers.

(f) the role of the legal profession in strengthening the system of administration of justice.

(g) the desirability of formulation of the norms which the Government and the Public Sector Undertakings should follow in the settlement of disputes including a review of the present system for conduct of litigation on behalf of the Government and such undertakings.

(h) the cost of litigation with a view to lessening the burden on the litigants.,

(i) formation of All India Judicial Service; and

(j) such other matters as the Commission considers proper or necessary for the purposes aforesaid or as may be referred to it from time to time by the Govenment.

Setting up of delimitation commission

891. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to delimit the Lok Sabha and Assembly Constituencies based on the latest census; and

(b) if so, whether a delimitation commission will be set up for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The proposal for fresh delimitation of constituencies is under the consideration of Government as part of the proposals for electoral reforms. No final decision has been taken yet. The Government's view is that these proposals should first be discussed with the political parties. These discussions have not yet taken plate.

Transfer of High Court Judges

892. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the Law Commission has said that the transfer of High Court Judges is being done by the Government with punitive intention; and

(b) if so, whether Government have reviewed its approach to the overall problem of transfers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Government have seen a press report in this regard that transfers of Judges are selective.

(b) The Government have accepted the policy of having 1|3rd of Judges from outside in each High Court and to implement this decision by transfer as well as by initial appointment. Beginning in this direction has been made by adopting the policy of having Chief Justices in the High Courts from outside. Transfer and appointments of Chief Justices are being made pursuant to this policy. A few transfers of puisne Judges and initial appointments to outside High Courts have also been made. Consultation with the Chief Justice of India is done in every case.

Gas based power Plants

893. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to answer to the Unstarred Question 16 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th April, 1987 and state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to install some more gas based plants by NTPC;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has since been cleared by Government and the World Bank;

(c) what is the number of gas based power plants which are proposed to be installed and their locations; and

(d) the names of the companies to which contracts for setting up the power plants are proposed to be given?